

Indian Chieftain.

Also For Rent in Advance.
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The fate of the Oklahoma bill is still an enigma. The impression was, early in the week, that its defeat was certain and that impression still prevails, generally, among our people, though the danger of its becoming a law seemed to have increased a trifle as the time passed.

LATER.—The Kansas City Times of the 27th, practically acknowledges the defeat of the bill.

The Creeks, having been paid 30 cents per acre on the western half of their domain, under the treaty of 1866, will only get 95 cents more on the acre, and perhaps a good deal less, after the government of the United States charges up all the expenses of the survey and sale to them.

Some follow, a man of more functions than brains, tries to make it appear that the Creeks "have chosen the better part," and condemns the Cherokees for what he, in his righteous judgment, terms a "corrupt alliance" with a cattle syndicate, and for their obstinate refusal to accept the logic of events by not following the good example of the Creeks and Seminoles. He talks like one who has a finger in the pie and not a disinterested party.

CONGRESSMAN PERKINS, of Kansas, will probably succeed Mr. Peel, of Arkansas, as chairman of the committee on Indian affairs. He has lived for years within a dozen miles of our border (at Oswego) which fact, in connection with his past service upon that committee, eminently qualifies him for the chairmanship. Congressman Morrill, of the same state, has a good show for the chairmanship of the committee on pensions and Congressman Ryan for that of the appropriations committee, at present held by Mr. Randall.

It can be truthfully acknowledged that Springer is an improvement on the slab-sided Puritan of colonial days, who thought the Indians well paid for the loss of their lands by having the gospel preached to them as a satisfactory compensation. An Indian who had been piously taught the vast acreage of Abraham's bosom, ought to have been satisfied with the prospect of everlasting hunting grounds where boomer never enter, but the Indian of to-day is not a whit behind his white brother in such matters and knows that his lands are worth more than a dollar and a quarter per acre.

ANY EXCUSE BETTER THAN NONE.

(Since at every point of attack upon the rights of the Cherokees in the lands of the outlet, not only theirs by a just cause of ownership, but by the evidence of such a title, various excuses are being hatched by demagogues, and those who are compelled to respect the rights of others, only as far as they are restrained by law, to set aside, by false representations and villainous logic, all hindrances to the grab game proposed by Springer's Oklahoma bill, Treaty concessions and the relinquishment by patent to the Cherokees, without any distinction, of all the country claimed by them, have but little or no weight. Even in the matter of compensation for lands, the sense of justice is limited to the pitiful sum of \$1.25 per acre. The title by which a citizen of any state holds his homestead, or by which some railroad magnate or landed proprietor holds his five or ten or twenty thousand acres, is no better or more sacred in law than that by which the Cherokees claim ownership of the strip lands. To all character of owners the same kind of title is given and by the same authority, the government of the United States. If to the railroad magnate or the landed proprietor lands are worth more than the government price of \$1.25 per acre, why not to the Cherokees? Is it because they are Indians and not whites why they should not get the full value of their lands, even if they are willing or are forced to relinquish their right to the lands of the outlet? Can any one be found so dishonest in opinion, who is not a born idiot, who will admit that his land, if he has any, is not worth more than a dollar and a quarter an acre, when wanted by him? Would it not be more reasonable that the high-sounding title of the Cherokees be paid? Even if the Cherokees were willing to give up their lands, is there any such idiot as to believe that they do not know their value, and that the offer of only about one-fourth of their common value would defeat a proposition to buy? All the disparaging comments which are now being made by many of the press, and quotations of the "inevitable" and the "logic

of events," "manifest duty" and other old hackneyed expressions, will never cause the Cherokees to surrender any part of their lands for a song, except in compliance to treaty stipulation.

If the government of the United States wishes to get rid of some of its enormous surplus of treasure in an honest and Christian like way, let it offer something like a fair value for Indian lands. This will be some redemption, if such is possible, for its oppressive policy of pricing Indian lands, and compelling them to take what is offered or nothing at all.

ON THE OKLAHOMA BILL.

Chief Mayes Given a Hearing by the Senate Committee.

Mr. Mayes. If it please the chairman and gentlemen of the committee: The Cherokees have become somewhat alarmed. We have come here before you to protest against any action on your part to extend your territorial jurisdiction over any portion of our country. The country that you propose to take west of the Arkansas river the Cherokees absolutely claim it as their property, claim the right to use it the same as any other people claim the right to use what belongs to them. We earnestly and honestly protest against the extension of your territorial lines over that country. We refer you to the treaties in which you have solemnly agreed not to extend your territorial rights over us without our consent. You have agreed not to extend territorial lines over our country in any case without the consent of the Cherokees. It seems to me, before you take any action in this matter, that you should consult us at least with regard to it. We have never been consulted; it is a surprise to our people. It seems to me that if you want to buy our territory, or want to do anything with it, we ought to be consulted about it.

The territory belongs to us, we claim it. We claim that we own it absolutely. We have been living on it for years, and the title has never been disputed.

We would simply ask you to send a committee down there and tell our people what you want. I think that is fair.

Senator Cullum. We are not proposing to do very much without your consent finally.

Mr. Mayes. But you put us in a place where we do not want to be. We claim that the territory belongs to us, and we claim that you have no right to extend those lines without our consent. You want to place us inside of a territorial government and you want to fix a price on our land. We claim that if there is any price to be fixed on our land we must fix it. It is ours, the same as your land is yours.

The chairman. Has there ever been any negotiations between the government and you for the extinguishment of the title, whatever it is to this outlet?

Mr. Mayes. No, sir; only the treaty of 1866.

The chairman. That is, the government has never come to you through any agent and asked you what you would do?

No, sir; they never have; by the treaty of 1866 we agreed to sell friendly Indians a portion of our territory.

The chairman. I understand that; but there has never been any talk between you or between the Indians and the government?

No, there never has; we gave the title to the land; the government never gave a title. We gave the deeds. It seems to me you people ought to treat us with some respect and come down and ask us what we want to have done about it.

Senator Cullum. That is the only point you present, is it?

We also make the point that you violate the treaty whenever you place your territorial lines over us. Besides that, we object to the price.

If we have lands that are to be sold we want something to say about the price; we have been offered \$3 an acre for them.

Senator Cullum. By whom?

I believe I have the proposition here in my pocket.

Senator Cullum. If it is not too long I should like to hear it read.

Senator Stewart. Do you claim that you have a right to sell the land by any treaty of law?

Not without your consent; of course we could not sell it to any foreign power. We would not pretend to violate treaty stipulation; we do not want to do that, and we do not want you to do it.

Senator Stewart. Then, if you have no right to sell, of what use is an offer?

Well, it goes to show what the land is worth.

The chairman. The paper is not very long; I will read it; it is dated Nov. 28, 1888:

[The offer made by the "syndicate" for the entire 6,000,000 acres was then read.]

Senator Cullum. Did you lease the land actually for \$200,000?

No, sir; we made a contract to graze cattle there for \$200,000 a year.

Senator Cullum. You are getting \$200,000 a year now?

We are getting \$200,000 for the land to-day.

The chairman. I would like to know how you understand that this bill will affect you. Suppose it passes, and you should agree to take \$1.25 an acre, when do you understand you are to get your pay and how are you going to get it under the bill?

We understand we may get part of it and may never get the other part.

The chairman. You get nothing under the bill as you understand, until the land is sold and paid for by settlers?

Yes, part of it we may never get.

Senator Butler. I see by the sixth section of this act there is a provision that every 16th and 36th section shall be reserved for school purposes. Do you understand

that under that provision you would get nothing at all for those?

Yes; it looks so.

The chairman. You would not get anything for that, where it is sold for school purposes.

Mr. Mayes. It would go to educate somebody else, not Indians.

The chairman. This land was appraised at 47 cents, was it not?

Yes; without authority.

The chairman. Have you claimed the money?

I have not done so; if anybody ever did he had no authority to do it.

The chairman. You do not know about a claim made by the Cherokees people for that money?

I understood that there was a claim made by some Cherokee delegates for the balance of the money, but if there was they had no authority to make the claim.

The chairman. I wanted to call your attention to that matter.

If they had any authority they had it in writing and I would like to see it presented.

The chairman. In 1882 a letter was addressed to Mr. Kirkwood, secretary of the interior, by Daniel H. Ross and R. M. Wolf, Cherokee delegates, and by Mr. Phillips as special agent, in which it is stated that the land was appraised at the law directed, in June, 1879, at 47.49 cents per acre, making an aggregate of a little more than \$5,000,000. That letter I will read:

WASHINGTON, D. C., Jan. 11, 1882.

Hon. S. J. Kirkwood, Secretary of the Interior.—Sir: In compliance with our treaty we desire to bring before you a matter of considerable importance, calling for early action.

Your predecessor, under date of February 1, 1882, sent a communication to Congress containing the report of the committee on Indian Affairs, relative to the proposed extension of the territorial lines over the Cherokee lands, and the same was read by the committee on the 1st of March, 1882, and the same was referred to the committee on the 1st of April, 1882, and the same was referred to the committee on the 1st of May, 1882, and the same was referred to the committee on the 1st of June, 1882, and the same was referred to the committee on the 1st of July, 1882, and the same was referred to the committee on the 1st of August, 1882, and the same was referred to the committee on the 1st of September, 1882, and the same was referred to the committee on the 1st of October, 1882, and the same was referred to the committee on the 1st of November, 1882, and the same was referred to the committee on the 1st of December, 1882, and the same was referred to the committee on the 1st of January, 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